

House Bill 1220 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Sims of the 169th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prestige and special license plates, so as to remove the limitation on the number of plates a firefighter can obtain; to provide that such license plates may be retained by the firefighter's spouse upon the death of the firefighter; to provide a special license plate supporting the Georgia Sea Turtle Center with funds distributed through the Nongame Wildlife Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Acquisition Fund; to modify certain provisions relating to the Support Our Troops special license plate; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prestige and special license plates, is amended by revising subsection (a) and adding a new subsection to Code Section 40-2-78, relating to a special license plate for firefighters, as follows:

"(a) Any resident motor vehicle owners who are firefighters certified pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 25 and who are members of fire departments certified pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 25 and motor vehicle owners who are certified firefighters of legally organized volunteer fire departments which have been certified pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 25 may submit an application to the commissioner for a special and distinctive vehicle license plate identifying the owner as a certified firefighter for a private passenger car or truck used for personal transportation. The commissioner shall retain all applications for such special firefighters' license plates until a minimum of 500 applications have been received. If the commissioner does not receive the required minimum 500 applications no later than July 31 of the year preceding the initial year of issuance of such plates, no such special plates shall be issued and all fees shall be refunded to applicants. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in

Article 2 of this chapter. ~~No firefighter shall be entitled to more than one special and distinctive motor vehicle license plate.~~ Such license plate shall be inscribed with such letters, numbers, words, symbols, or a combination thereof as determined by the commissioner to identify the owner as a certified firefighter. The chiefs of the various fire departments shall furnish to the commissioner a list of the certified firefighters of their fire departments who reside in Georgia which list shall be updated as necessary."

"(e) The spouse of a deceased firefighter shall continue to be eligible to be issued a distinctive special firefighter's license plate as provided in this Code section so long as such person does not remarry."

SECTION 2.

Said article is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86.21, relating to special license plates promoting certain beneficial projects and supporting certain worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations, by adding a new paragraph to subsection (o) as follows:

"(38) A special license plate supporting the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be charged and disbursed to the Nongame Wildlife Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Acquisition Fund and used to fund nongame wildlife conservation and education programs. The design of the license plate provided for in this paragraph shall include the words 'Jekyll Island – Georgia's Jewel' horizontally across the bottom of the plate in lieu of the county name, with a diamond jewel symbol in place of the dash."

SECTION 3.

Said article is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86.21, relating to special license plates promoting certain beneficial projects and supporting certain worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations, by revising paragraph 18 of subsection (o) as follows:

"(18) A special license endorsing 'Support Our Troops.' The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to ~~Georgia Support Our Troops, Inc.~~ the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation, Incorporated."

SECTION 4.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 5.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.